

An interview with Abe Malooley 7

ABE MALOOLEY

An Interview Conducted by  
Barbara Brugnaux  
June 24, 1981

SpC.

977

.245 2

m

G.C.

c1981 by the Vigo County Public Library  
Terre Haute, Indiana

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

VIGO COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 8202867

SpC. 977.245:M

"WORKS OF REFERENCE"

# NARRATOR DATA SHEET

06/24/81

DATE

Name of narrator: Abe Malooley

Address: 133 South 23rd St., Terre Haute Phone: 232-9385 (business)

Birthdate: 06/06/17 Birthplace: Terre Haute

Length of residence in Terre Haute: \_\_\_\_\_

Education: St. Joseph Academy; Gerstmeyer, Wiley

Occupational history: Pool room owner (briefly)

Owner of Saratoga Restaurant.

Special interests, activities, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Major subject(s) of interview: Syrian community; downtown

Terre Haute, Saratoga Restaurant

No. of tapes: 2 Length of interview: 90 min.

Terms of legal agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

## Interviewing sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
06/24/81	8 P.M.	Saratoga Restaurant	Barbara Brugnaux

8202867

ABE MALOOLEY

Tape 1

July 30, 1981

Saratoga Cafe, 431 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, IN 47807

INTERVIEWER: Barbara Brugnaux

TRANSCRIBER: Kathleen M. Skelly

For: Vigo County Oral History Program

©VCPL 1991

BB: The date is July 30, 1981. The interviewer is Barbara Brugnaux. The interviewee is Abe Malooley. The site of the interview is the Saratoga Cafe, /Fifth Street and/ Wabash Avenue /downtown Terre Haute, Indiana/.

Shall we start out talking a little bit about your family and where you were born?

MALOOLEY: Yes. We can begin. /I was/ born at 439 North 4th Street in a big two-story house, and since /then/ we have sold it to Indiana State University. They have taken the abstract and investigated and found out that also prior to my dad buying that house, Eugene Debs was born right there. And there is a monument down there now in the same location where our house was. I thought I ought to put that in there because they did build a monument, and I thought it's nice to know. Although he /Debs/ lived . . . was raised in the other house and they've used that for a museum, but this is where he was born.

Of course, I was born in 1917 and my father had a grocery store. It was a large, old-fashioned grocery store /on the northeast corner of/ 3rd and Chestnut where Indiana State /now/ has a track field. And in those days, the /merchandise/ was all bulk and yard goods. And the yard goods /was measured by arms length/. I watched him measure (I was a kid) with their arm stretched out, holding the yards and holding the goods. And everybody sewed then. They would buy their yard goods and people made everything in those days. And they bought groceries. Everything was in bulk. I can remember when the first cans came out and the first

MALOOLEY: breakfast cereals came out /and/ candy bars. Prior to that /everything came loose in boxes/. And the Christmas candies were all in wooden barrels and good candy, and everybody would sneak a bite or two because it was all bulk. And I remember the policemen walking the beat. They walked the beat, and, of course, when they walked by the store, they always got an apple or orange or a bottle of pop. They walked up and down and everybody was friendly with them.

Actually, in those days nobody closed their doors. Nobody locked them. Doors were always open day and night. Nobody closed their doors at homes. And you didn't have problems because everybody was in the same situation. There were plenty of ethnic people on 4th Street and 3rd Street and 5th -- Hungarians, Romanians, Lithuanians. There were a few colored people. There were Jewish people, and it was pretty much of an ethnic area and small grocery stores in every block, some of them two in a block. And at 4th and Eagle there were three grocery stores on three different corners. And nobody /had to buy for a week supply/. You could run across the street or go to the store and get what you needed for that morning.

And, of course, the milkman delivered milk to the house. You put your empty bottle out there with the change in it. Nobody took it. And he'd leave a bottle of milk.

BB: How much was a bottle of milk in those days?  
Do you have any idea?

MALOOLEY: Eight cents, I believe it was, a quart. And that's when it was real milk, had cream on the top. And in the wintertime that cream would freeze and push the paper cap about two inches or an inch-and-a-half on top of the bottle. And, of course, the first one up and got the bottle, that was just like

MALOOLEY: ice cream. They got that, boy, right now! And it was /like that/ until they started homogenizing the milk as years went by. You don't have cream on the top any more. You could see the cream that high /one inch or more, depending on the temperature/. And it was all in milk bottles.

In 1927 my father passed away and we had to close the store. Now, prior . . . he came here in the 1900s -- early 1900s -- and opened the store and was quite a merchant and was well respected in his business dealings. He was one of the first of our people, the Syrian people /in Terre Haute/. He came from a little village in Syria. Our name Malooley is derived from the village he came from which is the village of Maloola. And that is the only place in the world today /that speaks Aramaic/. Newsweek had a big article three years ago /saying/ that the village of Maloola is the only village in the world where the people still speak the Aramaic language of Christ.

BB: Oh!

MALOOLEY: It was in Newsweek. So, this is where they /the Malooley's/ came from. And my mother came from a little village right nearby /called Ein El Shara/, and, of course, she had a brother here. Now, a lot of them /our people/ started in Fort Wayne and then came to Terre Haute.

And in March, 1907, of course, they got married and . . . I have the license today. Now, when he died in '27, he was buried at St. Joseph Catholic church and at the Catholic Calvary Cemetery. And our people were Christians and they were of the Orthodox -- Eastern Orthodox Catholic -- religion. He had such a large funeral . . . . And I remember -- I was a kid -- it was very big, very long; and they decided we need a church. So that same very year, in July, they bought the old Voorhees

MALOOLEY: school building on North 5th Street and converted it into a church. That's how they started their church; and today it's down at 1900 South 4th, a new church, new building, new hall, new parish house. And that is the beginning of the Orthodox /Catholic/ church in Terre Haute.

BB: Has it always been called St. George's?

MALOOLEY: St. George Orthodox church. Orthodox Catholic. The Orthodox and the Roman Catholic -- the East and the West they're called -- were one. And, of course, they split /about one/ thousand years ago. The Roman was the West; Orthodox was the East. Of course, Rome progressed /largely/ because /it was/ the seat of the Roman government and /had/ the money. The Orthodox stagnated for many years. But now there is quite a few . . . there's about 105 Orthodox churches throughout the country. It's the old apostolic succession. It has not been changed. Their liturgy is the same as it was many years ago under the apostles. And, of course, you've heard of ecumenism; they're trying to get together and I wish they would.

Now, in 1927 . . . is the year I remember very greatly; and I remember a few years back, 1925, what the area looked like. There were blacksmith shops; there was one behind our store. There were horse troughs on each corner where people would bring their horses and water their horses. Everybody had a carriage and a horse, and we had a horse barn and a hayloft where we kept horses on 4th Street.

And the reason '27 rings in my ear, I /started selling newspapers/. After my dad died and we lost the store, we all went to work. And I sold newspapers for the Terre Haute Post which was on 4th Street. That year was when Lindbergh flew the ocean, very memorable. We also had the first talking picture. And another man died that was very

MALOOLEY: eventful was Rudolph Valentino. The women cried. There was a big extra on the streets, you know. He was the idol and women did cry when he died which makes '27 stand out in my mind because I sold "ex-trees" /newspaper special editions/.

Our people lived mainly on 4th Street. It was like, I would say there must have been twenty families. Of course, see they were all sort of related and . . . . Like this one fellow, Charles Maloof, when he came to Terre Haute from the old country, he had around his neck a tag saying, Terre Haute, Indiana. Charles Malooley was his cousin. So, of course, you know as you go through immigration and everything else, they keep /pushing them on/. He arrived here fine. And, of course, he also went into business.

My dad would help everyone that came, taught them. He was a self-taught man, my father. He read a lot -- astrology and things like that. I've still got some of his books. And he would teach each one some of the language, how to make their change, and he would help start some of them as the old people that carried suitcases and sold dry goods, linens, tablecloths, and things out in the country. They would travel around in horse and buggy and sell. And then they would come back and pay him for the goods they sold. So, he helped start a lot of them that way. And then they finally got into business which most of them did get into the grocery business.

At one time they must have had over 60 or 70 Syrian grocery stores in Terre Haute. And this much I do know that the small grocery store during the Depression, when the Depression came, helped more people with credit than is given . . . the store is given credit for. They carried people on books /credit/ and they did /a lot of/ this.

And I remember how the coal miners would come

MALOOLEY: across /the bridge/. They walked across the big Wabash /Norms Railroad/ bridge on Saturday night with their paychecks. Their lanterns were lit and it was dark 'cause they worked long hours and it was always dark when they got home. And all the wives were out there in front, just like the old movies, waiting for each guy to drop off and go in with his check. And they'd get it cashed, go to the store, and buy groceries. And this is the way it was. And I remember it plain as day 'cause it was . . . everybody was waiting on the coal miners. It was a coal mining town.

None of our people were in the coal mining business. They all went into sales or grocery stores. Since then a lot of them have closed because the children didn't take over. They went to school; they wanted other work. There are a few left, not too many. This was the progress of our people and they had found a place and they loved Terre Haute and they worked here and built it up as much as they could. They contributed to the growth of Terre Haute.

BB: Where did your people go to church before they built . . . before they took the Voorhees school and made it into a church? Did they have . . .

MALOOLEY: Yes. Some of them went to the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Catholic.

BB: I see. They didn't . . .

MALOOLEY: Not all of them . . .

BB: . . . try to have any kind of a . . .

MALOOLEY: No.

BB: . . . any other . . .



MALOOLEY: No. After they started their own church, yes, they went to work and donated and made a church of their own. Now, a lot of them stayed with the Roman Catholic, very few. And a few of them stayed with St. Stephen's which . . . and this kind of . . . they just stayed with them 'cause they didn't feel like changing. But the bulk of them did start the church. They had their board of trustees and they would have affairs, and they /cooked dinners/. People in this town liked the Syrian food and they would have big Syrian dinners around election time, called election dinner. The women would work for a week preparing all the food. And then the church hall was just crowded, and they would make money that way selling their food which they do once in a while now, down at this other church. People like this ethnic food. And I know that we had it a couple of times here called "Arabian Nights" and we sold out each night. We had a belly dancer, and in fact, WTHI spent five minutes on that night's news showing all about the belly dancer.

Was that you?

BB: (laughs) No.

MALOOLEY: No, that was (pause) Ingram, Sally Ingram..

BB: Oh, Sally Ingram.

MALOOLEY: Yes, she did. Was down here taking pictures and showed the bellybutton (laughs) and everything, dancing. So, they like the food and that helped progress our people in town.

BB: Talking about making money, how about some of the other ways that you made money when you were a boy, that you earned money?

MALOOLEY: Well, besides selling newspapers, we were the forerunners of the Good Humor man. We had a gang of fellows -- there was a mixture of us -- and

MALOOLEY: somehow we got the idea that we would /sell ice cream bars/. It was hot and there was certain shops that people worked in that had no way of getting anything to eat during breakfast, dinner, lunch. So we got these pots that you cook on a stove with a handle on them. And we got the Dauntless coffee can which was a tall can, and we went to the . . . Terre Haute Pure Milk is what it was called. It became Borden's Ice Cream later. We would go down there and buy a dozen bars of Eskimo pies. We'd put 'em in the coffee can; then they would furnish us ice around the can in this. And we would carry it around to these shops and sell 'em for a nickel. They cost us 40 cents a dozen. We'd sell 'em for a nickel which brought 60 cents and we made 20 cents profit. And, of course, there must have been six of us that started; and before the summer was over, there was 20. And we covered the town.

And the newspaper . . . where the newsboys congregated to get their papers to deliver, we could take five dozen. We got wagons later on -- we got money to buy wagons -- and carry them and go stand by the newspaper office, and they would sell 'em all. They'd buy 'em all up. You could make a dollar in about three hours.

Then, of course, in the wintertime we got the idea of selling candy bars to these same places. Each guy had a route. Now, on 3rd Street since I was . . . my dad had been on 3rd Street and I knew these people 'cause I used to play around there when my dad had his store -- like Kester Electric. And there was the Temple Laundry, Union Laundry, Kivits Produce House, and a few others. We'd get candy bars over at Biel's cigar store which was right across the street /5th & Wabash, north side of street/ where there is an oriental shop /now/. /It was near the old Fountain Theatre, one of the last old movie houses to go/. And he would sell us

MALOOLEY: candy bars for 40 cents a dozen. We'd sell 'em for a nickel and make 20 cents. And in the winter-time right after school we'd go over there and get our candy bars and go around and sell them.

Also when the first snow would hit the ground, on a Saturday we had our shovels out; and we'd go out and shovel snow, 50 cents and do a job like nobody ever saw. I mean the front, the back, the sidewalk, all the way to the alley. Then we'd get 50 cents, which was a lot of money.

Also, we'd caddy at the golf course /at the Terre Haute Country Club/. Caddying, we all got in line and each guy would get picked -- unless a guy wanted a special one -- and you got 50 cents for nine holes. You carried the bags and you got a dollar for 18. And, of course, when the tournament was on, you made five dollars then because that guy, if he wins, you got five dollars.

These were the ways . . . and, of course, there was a place besides /the/ Hulman /Company on Wabash Avenue/ called Bauermeister's. They had the Jane Justice label on their cans. And for every 10 labels you would get a penny; and if you got the big restaurant size can, it was worth a nickel. So, we'd go through the alleys of restaurants and find those Jane Justice labels and tear them off and take them down, and we'd get enough to go to a show. The show was only a nickel.

And as far as eating . . . this other fellow that sold newspapers with me, when we made a nickel, we would go over to Guy Jackson's meat market, which was at 4th and Cherry /the northeast corner/, and buy 3 cents' worth of braunschweiger and 2 cents' worth of bulk crackers. And we'd have a meal /as we/ sat on the curb (there wasn't any cars) and had enough /to eat and/ feed the dog /that was always around/.

MALOOLEY: Now, when the cars came in -- they came gradually prior to '27, of course -- you were lucky to see one car in a block. And, of course, they got more and more plentiful. But we used to have the wagons when they delivered the bread in wagons. The ice was delivered in wagons. I was talking to somebody the other day and they remembered how when the ice man came up to the area, he had to chop the ice -- 10 cents for 50 lbs. When he would carry it it, we would jump up in the back of the wagon and get those chips of ice and get out before he got back 'cause it was cool and there wasn't too much else that a guy could do. We made our own games. We played sidewalk ping-pong, played horseshoes, niggety-naggety -- which is like hide-and-seek -- different games. We made our own fun.

Then, finally, when they built the swimming pool down on South 1st Street, in the summertime we'd make enough money, we'd go swimming. Before that, I learned to swim in the Wabash River. We'd all go down to the Wabash River /at the 8th Avenue beach and one near the old railroad bridge/ and swim -- a bunch of kids.

BB: Didn't you tell me about sledding on the Wabash?

MALOOLEY: About what?

BB: Sledding on the Wabash.

MALOOLEY: Sledding, yes. In those days /in the winter months/ the river would freeze up so solid. Of course, the banks were sloped and they became very icy. We could go and get our sleds and start down that bank, and you could go almost all the way across the river on one slide. And it was, of course, /tested first/. They always /tested for cracks/. They wouldn't /let you slide/. . . everybody tested the ice before anybody let the

MALOOLEY: kids go sliding. Now they /don't slide on the river/, you know. When the snow comes now, they go out to Deming Park and they go down the hills in these sleds. But we did use the river a lot for sliding all the way across it and come back. But it was dangerous. It doesn't freeze over like that now, because it used to get real thick. The weather was colder. I mean today you got automobiles, you got /all kinds of heat in the air/. You didn't have all that. I remember we made our house . . . in 1925 we made it modern -- furnace, bathroom -- and put water, you know, city water into the house. Before that it was all pumps. Every kitchen had a pump and metal sink. And, of course, my dad was one of the first ones to modernize in that block. And the thing I remember . . . why it comes to my mind so vividly, is when the man was all done, everything was finished, and they were discussing where to put something . . . did I tell you?

BB: Tell me again.

MALOOLEY: My dad called me. He says, "Tell Abie to come here. He's the littlest one in the house." He says, "Sit on the stool." He says, "Now, touch the wall with your right hand." I went like that /illustrates with his hand by reaching out/ and he says, "Put it right there." And that was the toilet paper. If I could reach it, they all could reach it!

{both laugh}

BB: (continuing to laugh) I love that story.

MALOOLEY. That sticks in my mind. And little things like that do stick in my mind.

I took a trip on a train in 1924 to Grand Rapids /Michigan/. I remember that one because that was my first train trip. My mother was a

MALOOLEY: matchmaker. She was going up there to match up some guy here. His wife had died, and she knew somebody in Grand Rapids and she got 'em married!

What else can I tell you about our people?

BB: I was going to ask you a question; I completely forgot about it.

How many children were in your family?

MALOOLEY: Six of us -- two boys, two girls, two boys -- four boys and two girls. I'm the caboose. Of course, we all had to go to work after my dad died. We had a mortgage on the house and had to pay that off. That was at McKeen National Bank -- McKeen Bank -- at 6th and Wabash, where Rogers jewelry store is now. We all shined shoes also. We shined shoes. My brother Mose had a regular job at the shine parlor right here on /South/ 4th Street. And we had newspaper stands. Besides selling newspapers on Sunday -- Saturday and Sunday -- we had newspaper stands. I had one at 4th and Wabash. There was a shoe shop there, and we had to stand all day up 'til ten o'clock at night before we . . . . Then we had to carry our stand and our papers back to the newspaper company. There was no trucks that come and picked 'em up. We carried them. That's why there was two of us.

And then I eventually got me a newspaper stand on Sunday in front of St. Benedict's church, which was the prime spot of all corners because you were done by 11:30. You'd be there at six in the morning and done at 11:30 (everybody else stayed all day) 'cause church was over and they were very generous. And they bought their papers. You could make yourself \$5 or \$6 on a Sunday, and that was a lot of money. The first job I took in 1933 . . . I quit school at the age of 16, took a job in a grocery store for \$3.50 a week plus streetcar fare and lunch.

MALOOLEY: And I worked that for three months 'til I taught his daughter, who came over from the old country, how to make change -- how to do it -- and I turned it over to her and her father. I went back to school, graduated from Wiley in January of '36. I was supposed to graduate in June of '35.

So, those were the ways that we were able to make some money. And, of course you know, dollars went pretty far. We could . . . when I got older, like I said, the dance halls, the Rainbow Gardens was in town, 9th and Ohio where the K of C /Knights of Columbus/ building /was/. Prior to the Rainbow Gardens, it was Bud Taylor's boxing gym -- training gym. Bud Taylor was world bantamweight champion. He was from Terre Haute and he moved to California after he became world-known and married Estelle . . . Estelle something. She was a movie star. You've heard the name Bud Taylor?

BB: Yes.

MALOOLEY: Of course, after that they converted to a dance hall called the Rainbow Gardens. And we would all /go stag/. The girls went /stag/. Very few people had dates. The girls would go on one side /of the dance hall/; the boys were on the other side. And sometimes the guy that owned the dance parlor had to say, "Come on, you want to dance," or something. And he'd get somebody together. Or you'd go over and ask the girl. You'd look and say, "Well, I'll go ask her," you know.

And that's how you'd have dances. And sometimes you'd walk the girl home, if she didn't live too far. And if she did, you rode the streetcar. It was still going. There was, like I said, the Stark's School for Dancing between 7th and 8th. Marlatt's was across the street above Tune Brothers at 5th and Wabash. And the big, fancy dance hall was the Trianon out on East Wabash, out around past 25th Street. And you had to have dates. And,

MALOOLEY: of course, they had good bands and it cost more money. Then it was 50 cents and on special band nights it was a dollar. And, of course, everybody had dates when they went to the Trianon because you're high class.

BB: (laughs)

MALOOLEY: And we used to go out there and sit. When there was a big band here, we'd go out and sit out in front just to listen to the band. Of course, that is what brought us to start our own band.

What else is there that I can think of?

BB: Well, since you're on it, you might as well tell me about the band.

MALOOLEY: Well, there was a few of us fellows. We decided that we wanted to start our own band. We went to Sterchi's music store down there between 3rd and 4th, and each one went in there and we would pick up an instrument -- one you thought you might be able to play.

And, of course, like I said, I picked up the trumpet and I could blow taps right now. They said, "Well, you play the trumpet." And we had ten free lessons with buying the instrument. We bought them on time 'cause we all worked, and we hired the instructor for 10 weeks. After that we thought we could get on our own because we elected one of our men to be the instructor. He'd learned enough. One of the fellows is still living. He works for Heini's flower shop. He was a good trumpet man, too.

Our first engagement was at Rockville at a high school show of some sort. All I remember is we played there in this theater. And then we also played in Indianapolis. We played at St. Mary's-



MALOOLEY: of-the Woods, /and/ played around here in town a few places. Of course, by that time we all started getting steady jobs, and we had to either give one or the other up. But some of the fellows kept playing and got jobs -- steady jobs -- because they just liked to play.

BB: What was the name of your band?

MALOOLEY: The Caravan Band. The Caravan Band.

BB: About how long did you play together?

MALOOLEY: We played from 1929 . . . no, I'm sorry, 1931 to 1938, in that area. I forget exactly the exact dates.

I was working in a grocery store full time so I had to quit. A few other fellows had to quit, but some of the fellows kept playing. And they played at different dance halls, and two of them went to Chicago to make their way. They stayed about a year and come back. But nobody ever got big. But we had fun.

We used to practice behind a tavern up at 19th and Locust, so it had to be after '33. After '33 we were practicing behind a tavern in the back room 'cause we had to have a place to practice together. Each guy at home, I think their families got tired listening to them. So /they said/, "Go out and practice someplace else."

Those days were very good days and peaceful. Everybody was nice. Of course, as traffic got heavier and heavier -- cars and stuff -- it began to change. Times began to change. I finally quit the grocery business in 1939 and bought a pool room over on 4th Street -- still sticking to 4th Street -- from a Greek fellow named John Antone and ran the pool room 'til war came along and I had to sell out. Sold out to a retired Marine at that time.

MALOOLEY: He was up in years and he was retired. They weren't going to call him back so he bought the pool room.

'Course, we went to the army and served our time, came back, and we had this place. And we just worked here at the Saratoga and built this one up. It used to be just one little room and /we/ worked hard at it all these years. We've been here 39 and going on 40 years now.

It has become . . . this place has become almost an institution, they tell me, because of the local color that comes in here. And it is full of the lawyers, the judges, the businessmen. And we're almost . . . they say we're an institution.

BB: Um hm.

What about that comment you mentioned about you can't run for office unless you eat at the Saratoga or something like that? I can't remember how that goes.

MALOOLEY: Oh, yes. Yes, yes. Well, Harold McMillan was writing different articles for the ISU /Indiana State University/ paper, and he had said that . . . one time he says, "If you want to pick up a politician, you have to go to the Saratoga Cafe."

Then later, after everybody that came in here was elected, he says, "And if you want to be elected, I guess you have to drink at the Saratoga Cafe." Because everybody that came in here of the legal profession got elected. Why, I don't know. It's just that they all gathered here. And it seems like the deals were made or this or that and the votes. But they all got elected. And it's nice to know that, you know, that they do get elected.

And, of course, it keeps growing; I guess everybody feels like they should come. Maybe there's some luck rubbing off.

BB:                    Could be.   Could be.

Do you want to tell us then about the beginnings of the restaurant and the beginnings of the building and how you expanded?

MALOOLEY:            Yes. I can tell you that because first of all the man that really originated and named the Saratoga was N. George Nasser, who is the oldest practicing attorney in Terre Haute today. He was my brother-in-law. He is my brother-in-law. I don't think he knew the name of the Saratoga, what it really meant. I think he took it from the battleship or the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Saratoga, but later on I found out that it's an Indian name which means "gathering place," because of the Saratoga track, the Saratoga Springs. I dug up /the etymology/ and it means "gathering place," which is very good. And he started this with a little bar and a little sandwich counter. And then, of course, my brother Joe was running the Phoenician Club which burned down in '42. It was out on Canal Road -- South Canal. It burned to the ground so he /Nasser/ asked him /Joe/ to come up here and manage it. So, after a few months, he says, "You want to buy it?" So he sold it to us, sold it to my brother. So, when I came out of service, I came to work here and we built it up. But that's how it got its start.

BB:                    And that was just a corner . . .

MALOOLEY:            Just this corner building which was the first . . . one of the first banks in Terre Haute. It was called the Terre Haute National Bank. The picture's up there on the wall from the Historical Museum /of the Wabash Valley/. The vault was downstairs and the big slab of dirt and cement is still there where the big safe sat. Where these rest rooms are, the big vault sat there and that stone slab is still there; because to remove it out of the basement they said it wasn't worth it.

MALOOLEY: But we did take out the other vaults and put in a central heating and air conditioning unit, later on. Eventually, /later/ this was a hardware store, the Pentecost and Craft, which was here for many years, handed down. And when they finally moved out, they sold it to us. We remodeled it and made a dining room out of it in 1966 and '67. That's how we got this here.

Then I finally went to fix the building up and instead of covering up the old building, I restored it. I sandblasted and siliconed and put a new roof on just last year to preserve this building. Of course, I bought it . . . it used to belong to Hulman and Company. And Hulman and Company at one time was in this building, before they . . . while they were building the building down there at 9th and Wabash. They were here one time because I got the abstract and they even have the board of directors, how many shares was held by each one. The history of Hulman and Company is in my abstract. They were here. That's how . . . they owned the building.

BB: Before or after the bank?

MALOOLEY: Oh, yeah. The bank went out. Then, later on came the tire shop . . . no, Kables. Kables had a restaurant here. Kables Restaurant was here. And as a kid, I went to St. Joseph school down here and we would be going up this way home. I remember the iron railing which is in the picture. How I remember it so well is we used to take our rulers and we'd go brrrrrr along the railing.

Then, later on they took that out, closed it up, and they put /in/ a fire escape because there used to be apartments and meeting rooms upstairs. They had a fire escape. And, of course, as you got older, the guy that could jump up and grab the ladder and pull it down was a good jumper.

MALOOLEY.

Since I bought the building, I was upstairs treating for pigeons, and we found the articles of confederation of the unions in Terre Haute. The . . . 1899 the ice wagon and milk men, 1903 the poultry and the meat-cutters in 1901 . . . I skipped 1901, then 1903. And somebody had told the unions I had put 'em on my walls. They're authentic; they're cleaned up -- the way I found them. Somebody had told the unions about them, and they sent the curator down here for the unions and he examined them and said they were authentic. And Samuel Gompers name is on two of them, and then they brought the lawyer down for the unions, Mr. Jacobs. And they couldn't very well . . . they said we don't know what price to put on them, but we would like . . . we want to build a labor room at the Smithsonian Institute and we would love to have these, if you'd donate them. I said, "I will. When you get the thing done and you're ready and get me a certificate, and I'll donate them to the Smithsonian Institute."

So, I had to hide two of them. He said, "You ought to take them off the wall. Somebody'll break in and steal them," 'cause they could be worth something. Because the signatures are original and they were completely true by the curator, he says. One of them . . . the first one -- I can't remember the name on there now -- he says, "That man was president only one year and," he said, "that's excellent."

So, Samuel Gompers came after him and he became world famous. And I think Eugene Debs' name is on one of them. But I have them here and there are some old facts upstairs. And there are old winding stairways on both sides up on the third floor. To go to the top there was a stairway curved like that /motions with his hands/. And it's still walkable. You can walk up and . . . of course, some of the banister poles are loose and falling. I've got them.

MALOOLEY: I don't want to lose them but they're /the steps/ are very strong. And those banister rails, they tell me, they say, "You know, you could sell them for good money." I said, "Well, I'll leave it with the building." I don't know what I'm going to do. The HUD /Housing and Urban Development/ . . . the government has thought if they could get the money -- a low-interest loan -- they want me to put /in/ apartments which . . . I had an architect /who/ said I could put eight apartments up here, two-bedroom apartments. So that's the reason I did the building first, got it in good solid condition, got a new roof. It's dry. So, some day we may put apartments back up there. They did have them. You can see the wallpaper hanging on some of the walls; and /you can see/ these big sliding doors, how they separate the living room from the dining room. They are still up there on the top floor. You can see where the old chimney for the potbellied stoves went to the wall.

BB: I'll bet those apartments would be beautiful, if they were done.

MALOOLEY: They would be. Well, someday . . . I've got the practical of the drawings; and I've said, "We'll get it." Just give us time 'cause they . . . I've met with Dave Dunbar down at Valley Federal Loan, and I've met with Harold Baker of HUD /Terre Haute Housing Authority/. I've met with the architect and one other fellow, and we discussed it. He said you could rent them just as easy as anything because people want to live downtown. And I have faith in Terre Haute downtown. It's not gone. It's a very good downtown and business is good. All the stores are really doing good. They look at Honey Creek and they say, "Oh, look at that!" Of course, they're doing good. But the stores aren't hurting. You don't . . . you'll never see no big department stores /downtown/ again, no. Not like they used to be.

MALOOLEY: There was Hertz . . . Herz, rather. There was Root's; there was Silverman's furniture store, Lederer's, Schultz, of course, and Smith's. Schultz and Smith was one at one time. They were brothers-in-law. Then they got mad and split up; and one went on this side of the street and one on that side of the street.

And then Herz became Alden-Herz, bought it later. That's the building they tore down at 7th and Wabash where that parking lot is /south of the federal building/. That building was hard to tear down. That was a well-constructed building. It had wrought irons going through the building, the walls, and . . . . Of course, Root's finally sold out to Mercantile and it's gone. And all you have left is Meis. They were there for many . . . all the time. They owned . . . Brown Shoe Company owns that now. And Schultz is about the only home-owned department store left in Terre Haute.

And downtown on Saturday night was a very busy town -- all the farmers and people from Illinois. This was a good-sized town. And I remember the barbershops. In those days you could get a haircut for 25 cents, the old story of a shave and a haircut, you know . . .

BB: Two bits?

MALOOLEY: Yeah. And they /the barbershops/ had bathtubs. This was before homes became modern. And it cost 25 cents to take a bath, and all the miners would line up in the barbershop. That's where they'd get their bath and get a shave and a haircut and the story is "smell like a barbershop." And they would all head for town. So they'd get cleaned up and bathed up and shaved and head for town. And their straw hats, you know, cocked over to one side and stroll up and down the avenue. And people . . .

BB:                   And the stores would be open on Saturday night.

MALOOLEY:           Oooh, 'till 9:30! And they were busy. And people on Sundays would window shop. You know, to pass the time away. And the streetcars, I remember how we used to as kids on a hot summer Sunday we would walk all the way down to almost Hulman Street on South 3rd; and for a nickel we would ride the streetcar all the way up to Collett Park -- up on the north end up near Fort Harrison -- and play there. And then for another nickel you could ride all the way back. Then we'd walk back home. /We did this/ just to get the long ride because the windows were down. It was summer. We had straw seats and it was just nice and fresh and cool as the breeze, you know, 'cause the streetcar drove lickety-split.

                  And, of course, in those days sometimes when we'd go to the . . . they had ball games out to the stadium. The guys would pull the trolley off the trolley, the back end, and the car would stop because it was run by that trolley, electric. And the guy would go back and put it back on; and before he could get started again, we'd hop on the back and ride all the way out there free. And we'd ride across to West Terre Haute a lot of times that way. And they used to put these little bombs on the track. The streetcar would go over it, /and it would go, / "POP," you know, just for noise.

BB:                   Like a firecracker?

MALOOLEY:           Yeah.

                  We did many things in those days to have fun. And when telephones came in . . . I remember the first telephone. The operator . . . our number at the store was Wabash 5634J and that stuck in my mind. Then came the dial system when I was in the 8th grade. /I remember/ 'cause they came in and



MALOOLEY:     taught everybody the dial system     in school --  
                  so we'd know how to use it -- how to call the Fire  
                  Department, the police, everything. But I don't  
                  . . .

BB:                 What telephone system was that here, do you  
                  remember?

MALOOLEY:         What what?

BB:                 What was the system that was here -- the  
                  company?

MALOOLEY:         Oh, that was the Bell Telephone. They were  
                  here first.

                  The operators . . . before, you know, you  
                  called the operator and you asked for your number.  
                  Then the dial system, of course. And we used to  
                  call up people . . . you know, the old story, you'd  
                  call 'em up and you'd say, "Do you live on the  
                  streetcar line?" You know. They'd say, "Yes."  
                  "Well, get off. Here comes a streetcar." And,  
                  call up a grocery store and say, "Have you got  
                  Prince Albert tobacco in the can?" And you'd say,  
                  "Well, let him out." Things like that.

BB:                 Kids are still pulling that.

MALOOLEY:         Yeah, they're still doing it.

                  Talking about Prince Albert, I remember the  
                  old store. And it was a long store and a long  
                  counter and they had a big icebox, was refrigerated  
                  with ice. The iceman put ice every morning up in  
                  the top. And behind it was the old potbellied  
                  stove and the old men sitting around playing check-  
                  ers. They would sit for hours, and the men . . .  
                  the guy that used to smoke Prince Albert made me  
                  think; he had a pipe and I always remember him.  
                  I'd sit there and watch him. And there was a cracker

MALOOLEY: barrel right there, too. And they would study an hour before they'd ever make a move 'cause they had . . . they were old people. And they'd just sit around the store and played checkers, and sometimes some of them would eat. They'd, you know, make a sandwich for 'em. But there wasn't a lot of business. It was just a good, smooth time.

Not . . . today it's hustle. You have to work at it today. The things were just so natural and so peaceful and quiet. No cars, no this or that. I grew up with it. I think I came through the best years because /I lived/ from the horse and buggy, and you might as well say, to the moon. /I/ remember the first airplanes and how they used to have the airplane circus and how they used to stand on the wings and do acrobats at the circus in the old biplane. And that's when the air . . . the Paul Cox airport was on South 7th. And everybody'd go down 'cause that way the plane didn't fly very fast. They went 60s, miles an hour. And these acrobats would get on top of the wings and stand on each other's shoulders -- of course, their feet were strapped -- and do things like that. And it was fun. And they used to give rides for a dollar, take you all around the town. Today, they don't . . . they have air shows once in a while, but they're all sky divers . . .

BB: Um hm, and jets and things.

Can you . . .

MALOOLEY: When the circus came to town, it would unload down here on Wabash Avenue. The track, the railroad track went through. It would unload there and they would all parade off the train in parade fashion with the calliope playing music and right down Wabash Avenue all the way out to 25th Street, where they'd pitch their tent. And everybody got out of school when the circus came to town. And you'd line Wabash Avenue, and I used to follow them all the way

MALOOLEY: out there and work just to get into the big tent.

BB: Did they come every year?

MALOOLEY: Every year.

BB: What did you work at? What did you do to  
. . .

MALOOLEY: Oh, I just hauled water or something for the animals and things. We used to say, "Hey, we're willing to work. We want to see the circus tonight." And they'd work and they'd give us a ticket. We'd go to the circus. And my mother would be so mad. I'd never show up home 'til I got home late. (laughs) We walked everywhere, see. She'd just figure, well, we had to be at the circus 'cause they let the school out. Schools would get out. Go to the circus.

BB: They probably figured you'd all want to cut or not pay attention anyway so . . .

MALOOLEY: That's right! But, oh, the animals -- the elephants, everything came off the train right down the walkways and right down Wabash Avenue.

BB: Can you put your mind back to when you were a young man growing up in Terre Haute what . . . can you describe to me what Terre Haute, downtown Wabash Avenue, was like? We've talked a little bit about it but . . .

MALOOLEY: Yes.

BB: . . . could you describe the stores and people and atmosphere?

MALOOLEY: Yes. There were a lot of movie theaters downtown, a lot of furniture stores and small shops and ten-cent stores. There were a lot of ten-cent

MALOOLEY: stores -- Woolworth, F. W. Grant, McCrory's . . . some of the names don't come. There was quite a few in this . . . I think there's one still down here. Is it? No, it's gone now, isn't it? Yeah. It was right there at 6-1/2 and Wabash /Kresge's formerly was at this location/ Avenue that lasted so long -- Woolworth's.

BB: Woolworth's is still there, isn't it?

MALOOLEY: Is it still there? Yeah, there's a store there. And it's still standing there. It was there since I was a kid. And . . .

END OF SIDE 1

TAPE 1-SIDE 2

MALOOLEY: Downtown was . . . there were no empty buildings. My English isn't right. There weren't any empty buildings. There was . . . starting with the Savoy theater, the Fountain theater, then between 6th and 7th were two small theaters called the Princess and the Crescent. Then we went to the Liberty, then the American theater near 9th Street. There was the Grand theater at 7th and Cherry and the Indiana theater at 7th and Ohio and the Hippodrome at 8th and Ohio.

And vaudeville was still on when I was a kid. I think I failed to bring that out. And I had seen some vaudeville. And it was said in those days that if you could make it in Terre Haute, you could make it anywhere in the vaudeville circuit. 'Cause Terre Haute was a tough place to . . . and if you can get applause, you can go to New York. And there were some famous people who came through here in those days and famous bands.

Then the . . . of course, the talkies came in. The movies . . . the first two movie houses to disappear was the Crescent and the Princess between 6th

MALOOLEY: and 7th Street, mainly because more stores were wanting the room. They were sold and rented as shoe stores. Becker's was there for years.

Right across the street was Thom McAn, and alongside that building was a stairway on the outside going up to the apartments. And under the stairway was a little building where a man sold popcorn and candy bars, chew tobacco in a little . . . under the stairway /In/ a little cubbyhole. In the wintertime, he had a little kerosene lamp that kept his feet warm.

And there used to be vendors on every corner with bananas in the summertime and apples, hot tamales. A man used . . . they used to walk up the neighborhoods when I was a kid in the winter -- fall and winter -- /shouting,/ "Hot tamales! Red hot!" And sold /them/ for a nickel. And you could buy them. And downtown was always busy because there were people vending. There were hucksters on every corner that'd set up card tables /to/ sell something, to sharpen scissors, knives, hose . . . garden hose. And there were jewelry stores, shoe stores, furniture stores. Second-hand stores were on 3rd Street off of Wabash. There were second-hand stores. You could go and buy second-hand things.

And 3rd Street . . . North 3rd at one time when I was a little kid, my dad had told me, was called Market Street. The market and everything was along 3rd Street. And the city market . . . /later,/ Wabash came /to be main street/ because . . . it finally bent around and came this way and Wabash became the main district. Third Street in the beginning was because they had boulevards, nice big poplar trees up and down the middle. That's why 3rd Street is so wide. They had boulevards in the middle and it was a beautiful street. And, of course, as Wabash gained momentum it became the main street.

MALOOLEY:

The city market was over here on 2nd and Walnut between 2nd and 3rd. And the farmers would bring all their things in and had stalls. Then they finally moved down to 2nd and Chestnut where there was a big city market -- made it a bigger place. And they all . . . in the summertime you'd go there; all the people would go with wagons or if they had a carriage or if they had a car. You could buy tomatoes 50 cents a bushel, and they'd go home and they'd can. Everybody canned all summer. They canned and made jellies and made fruit preserves, all summer long for the winter. Everybody had a pantry in the basement where they would store the things for their winter needs. This is going back in the '20s.

And downtown was always thriving; and on Saturday night even my mother would take me when she wanted to go downtown, and the Salvation Army would play on 4th and Wabash . . . right there. The Salvation Army in those days would play at a corner and take collection and preach religion. And my mother used to sit me right there on the curb 'cause they were my babysitter. I'd just sit there and just listen to 'em. And they'd play music and talk. When she was through shopping, she'd come and pick me up. And she'd say, "O.K., we'll go to a show." We'd go to the Fountain theater. For being a good boy.

(both laugh)

MALOOLEY:

That's when it was a nickel.

The Salvation Army would parade from one corner, and they would play the music and parade right in single file right down Wabash Avenue to the next corner or two blocks and then start there preaching again. And there used to be different small groups that would also preach on different corners. And they would preach the gospel and salvation to everybody, and they always had a nice crowd and people

MALOOLEY: did donate. And, of course, the Salvation Army has done a lot of good since then, and they've become quite something in the community here. And throughout the world, I mean, they've helped a lot. Even during wartime, disaster times, just like the Red Cross.

The Indiana theater, of course, was the biggest theater and it still is. It was a beautiful theater, and I believe it was built around 1925. I'm not sure, but I think it was '20 or '25 -- the same time that the Terre Haute House was built. It used to be the Prairie House. Then they built /the Terre Haute House/ around 1925 to '27. /I recall/ 'cause going to the Grand theater, there was a . . . they had that boardwalk where they were building above and they had . . . that's how I remember when it was built. And, of course, the first dormitory was also built at Indiana State /Normal School/ for girls around that same time. Being a newsboy, I covered the territory; and I remember playing on the hump of dirt and the girls upstairs would holler down at us and tease us 'cause -- "Look at the cute kids," you know. And they were college kids, girls, you know, and they threw down a piece of candy or something.

So, the main drag . . . the policeman, I remember him. /The/ tall policeman named Rickleman must have been 6-1/2 feet tall. He was the one that was always . . . paraded Wabash Avenue. Then when the cars came in, he marked them with chalk, parking. And they had about 2 hours I think it was then, just like now.

BB: Did you go to many of the vaudeville shows?

MALOOLEY: I went to a few of them. It's hard for me to remember who they were, but I remember how they used to come out and put the names out on the side. There were jugglers, magicians, music groups; nothing really sticks in my mind except that it was

MALOOLEY: vaudeville, and then they had the movie. They had vaudeville in between the movies.

Then later came short subjects and Pathe' News. And vaudeville disappeared.

BB: Did your parents take you to the shows or  
. . .

MALOOLEY: No. They would pick one of the oldest guys in the block. There were about six of us. He was given the money and we had to follow him. He paid the way and he brought us back. It was all walking distance anyway, but, no, he carried . . . in those days he tied the money . . . they tied it up in a handkerchief, in a knot. And don't lose it! And we all went to the show and he was the boss, like follow-the-leader. He was a cousin of mine. He's a pharmacist today even; he's still living, Faris Corey.

The scariest show in the silent movies was when "The Phantom of the Opera" came on. In those . . . in that day when "The Phantom of the Opera" came on and they showed his face get as big as the screen, people did run out of the theater 'cause it was scary to them. And that was at the Grand theater.

Of course, you know, like I say, we used to catch the short subjects, the Pathe' News; [they] all took the place of vaudeville. I didn't see a lot of vaudeville. We didn't go to the show that often. But when I was selling newspapers, I finally made some of the shows. After we'd sell papers or in the afternoon, we'd go see a movie. And if we got downtown between 7th [Street] . . . past there you were . . . 10 cents a show. These little shows were still a nickel. Popcorn, they all sold popcorn right out in front, 5 cents a sack.

What else can I tell you about downtown?



MALOOLEY: Except that it was busy.

BB: Why don't we go back and talk about the restaurant now for a little bit?

I think you told me once before that when you opened this part of the restaurant -- the dining room area -- wasn't there something about . . .

MALOOLEY: We were practically ready . . . it was on New Year's . . . the day before New Year's, and we decided to just go ahead and open it up without any advertising. And you'd have think everybody knew it because they started filing in here at 5 o'clock. We were jammed from 5 to midnight. And without any . . . we just decided to open it up, and we weren't really prepared for the onslaught. So, we had everybody working. We were making more salads, making everything in the kitchen. We had three busboys. /They had to/ get everything back in, /and I had to tell them,/"Let's get it back out; let's get everything going." And everybody was happy because we had horns and hats and things anyway. And it just became a big thing without any advertising.

There weren't too many restaurants in this area because fast foods came after that. And, of course, more food eating places. And the people tend today . . . you know they go for fast foods, get it now. And we were one of the very few downtown /restaurants/, besides the Goodie Shop. The Goodie Shop used to be on 6th Street here where the parking lot is. Then he moved over where he is. In the early years, he was on North 7th Street. He moved over here, then moved to where he is. George Martin.

And there wasn't . . . oh, there were other restaurants in the early years. The Filbeck Hotel /at the southeast corner of 5th and Cherry streets/ had Mother Eaton's; the Indois, the Deming, the

MALOOLEY: Terre Haute House /had restaurants/, but as far as individual-owned restaurants, it was one of the few. And I still cut all my meats. I have a butcher shop downstairs, one of the few places that still cut all their steaks and make our own roasts. We still bread our own shrimp. I buy the shrimp with the shell on. We bread our own oysters; we make our own dressings -- an old-fashioned restaurant in a modern-day setting.

We have a nice big crowd all day. We're more day than we are night. I can understand that people . . . business people come in here all day long and don't want to come back at night. Not any more. They'll go someplace else, you know, if they're going to eat out. And, of course, a lot of them do come back, especially all the legal profession.

BB: I think you told me before that at one time or maybe it's now, you know 90% of your customers by their first names?

MALOOLEY: Yes, we do know 90% by name. Like I said, we've become an institution and these people have been coming here . . . we have some that's been coming here since 1946.

Dave Becker's is one of them, across the street, every day. He has the Becker jewelry. And Ish Gurman of the Gurman and Sons barrel place on 3rd Street and . . . I mean these fellows . . . and a lot of these have been coming here since . . .

BB: Didn't Tony Hulman used to come here?

MALOOLEY: Oh, yes, when his cook was on vacation, he and his wife came here and would eat. Oh, we knew Tony well. He was just a few years older than I was. We'd go to Hulman & Company and bought everything, you know. This used to be the Hulman build-

MALOOLEY: ing. And, of course, my uncle worked for Hulman & Company for 50 years and longer - Sol Malooley. And, of course, before Tony died, I talked to him about buying this building. It had needed repair, and he says, "I don't own anything down there but that," and he says, "now you surround that." "Yeah," /I said/. He says, "You get it, and we'll make the price right." And, of course, he died three weeks later; and I was scared to death that nobody would know about it.

So, I waited . . . I even took care of the out-of-town guests at the home. Mrs. Hulman wanted me to come down and serve the out-of-town guests that went to the funeral. She said, "You set up and when we come back, you see what they get there." It was Phil Harris, Chris Schenkel. There was two governors from different states. There were a lot of people from out of town, and I would make the drinks and carry them around and . . . just like a valet. So I waited about a month afterwards, and I called and told them that I'd talked to Tony. I told them the story and /that/ he said I could have it. And, of course, I was lucky enough that he had told one of his key men, Homer Taylor, and Homer had confirmed. He said, "Yes, Tony had come to me and said 'I'm going to let Abie Malooley buy that building. It's the only one we got down there. Let him have it.'" And they set the price and everything, and then Joe Cloutier (he was an old friend) and Mort Swango was the lawyer, and we transacted the deal. And that's how it became our building. Now the whole corner is ours now.

BB: It is fascinating the way this building wraps around.

MALOOLEY: Yes, it is built around it because the bank was a short building, built in those days. I couldn't tell you why. And this building was built around it because they needed a place on 5th Street for their deliveries. The bank didn't need deliveries. Everybody come in the front door. And that's

MALOOLEY: why I think they built around it because the entrance to the kitchen is where the hardware store got their deliveries. And everything was sold up in here.

In fact, I still have the old vault. It's very ancient and old. It's one of those great big, heavy . . . you'd have to dynamite it to get it . . . to break it. You can't peel it. Big doors, it's got two double doors; and inside there are two more doors. And it's got painting on it -- Pentecost & Craft, 1800 and something. I don't know.

BB: (laughs)

MALOOLEY: And the safe is still down there. And, of course, I had the locksmith fixing it . . . couldn't get it out of here. Don O'Rear, who married into the Pentecost family, he said, "I can't get it out. It ain't worth it so you go ahead and use it." So, I says, "O.K." He'd lost the combination to it so I had a new one made.

BB: (laughs)

MALOOLEY: We store stuff in there -- papers, records, many years of transactions. I'd love . . . I mean it's such an old . . . I'd hate to . . . you know, it might as well stay with the building.

BB: Yes. It belongs here, that's for sure.

MALOOLEY: Yeah.

So, we bought the building and we finally fixed it up, and Tony was a very good landlord. Tony Hulman. I think Terre Haute does owe him a lot. And you know it's ironic . . . you might not say ironic, rather coincidental, that Tony Hulman's

MALOOLEY: initials are "T.H." And Terre Haute is Terre Haute. And they did a lot for Terre Haute. They donated a lot. I know they got their name on things but, listen, things got done. And, look, he brought Wide World of Sports to Terre Haute. Look what he done with the 500-mile race track. Remember when he bought that for \$750,000; now it's worth about \$70 million. But he promoted it. He was a promoter. He knew how to get the job done. And he was good for Terre Haute. He put Terre Haute on the map. He brought . . . I remember when Clark Gable came through Terre Haute. He was going to the 500-mile races. The women that followed that car. It was funny.

BB: About when was that?

MALOOLEY: It was back in '48, I think. He was to be at the race track, 500-mile races. And Tony had him paraded right through . . . brought him to Terre Haute, paraded right down Wabash Avenue. The women all run around Clark Gable's car, you know. But he /Hulman/ did bring a lot of big names. I think Terre Haute does owe Tony Hulman a lot of gratitude. He was a good landlord to us. If I needed the sidewalk . . . it was broke out there and some woman turned her ankle, he put a new sidewalk in. Anything you asked for, he done it for you. And he didn't overcharge on rent.

BB: You paid rent a lot of years.

MALOOLEY: Yes, 36 years. He said, "You mean you've paid me 36 years?" /I said,/ "Yes." He said, "You'll get it cheap."

(both laugh)

MALOOLEY: "You get the building cheap."

He was nice to talk with. He was . . . I mean,

MALOOLEY: being a very wealthy man, he was rather . . . when I was in his home for that funeral, while they were at the funeral, I asked the policeman to take me around. /There were/ a lot of antiques. And there was one letter there from the pope. I forget what year it was. It wasn't to him /to Tony/; it was to his wife's father, Fendrich, and from the pope of Rome. I forget what it was about. I think when he . . . St. Benedict's was through the Hulman clan and Fendrichs . . . . When they had a fire, they rebuilt St. Benedict's many years back. I think it was because of that.

And he did. He had built St. Anthony's Hospital. He did a lot of good in Terre Haute.

BB: Speaking of the Hulmans, you told me before about going down to Hulman & Company when you were a little boy when your uncle was working there.

MALOOLEY: Yes. We would . . . they would buy empty carton boxes. We would save 'em up . . . you know, they shipped canned goods in boxes. And when you'd empty them, you'd get those boxes and take 'em back there. You could get a nickel for good ones, 2 cents for some that weren't so good. And, of course, you could go through Hulman & Company. It was such a magnificent place to go through. They had displays out in the front. Well, they still do! It's one of the oldest general merchandise wholesale houses in the country today. I think you can still buy chicken wire and nails. They had such an old-fashioned setup. The only thing they've done to it is computerize it. But the floor . . . they've never modernized anything else except /put in/ computers. The stairways are still the same there, and the floors and the building and the old elevator. And the way the stuff would come down the elevator - they would slide it off. And if your name was on it, you picked it up and went up in front and paid for it. It was a . . . they made their own coffee.

MALOOLEY: And then in 1936 Tony Hulman put Terre Haute on the map again by going national with Clabber Girl Baking Powder. And he almost went broke between '36 and '39 trying to put it over nationally. And Mr. Fendrich came through with, I think, two or three million dollars to help him and from that day on, he just went on up the ladder. But Clabber Girl is a nationalized product. And it's made right here in Terre Haute.

There used to be a whiskey . . . they used to sell whiskey, Hulman & Company did. They sold whiskey in the old days prior to Prohibition. A rye -- I can't remember the name of it. I have a photo, an advertising photo, upstairs somewhere. It was given to me by Mr. Bindley from Bindley drugstore -- Bindley Drug Company.

BB: Yeah, I know who he is.

MALOOLEY: Oh, many years ago he gave it to us. He says, "Hang it on the wall." It's up there somewhere. And there was a Merchants Distillery down on South 1st Street, and they made Merchants whiskey. And it was very good whiskey.

Terre Haute became diversified as years went by with different manufacturers and plants. We had a big candy company on 9th Street called Mewhinneys. They were a big candy company on North 9th near Chestnut and Sycamore -- somewhere in that area. /It was a/ big plant, Mewhinneys candies. I think the building's still there. If they'd look on the side somewhere, if it's not painted over, I think you'd find the name. I remember it because I used to go in the back of it to get candy.

And there were a lot of bread companies. Now Terre Haute Pure Milk became Borden's. We had two other milk companies. The names escape me right now. We had . . . old Fitzgerald Baking Company

MALOOLEY: was one of the oldest. Jerry Fitzgerald was very well-known in Terre Haute. He had a baking . . . he made bread, Fitzgerald bread. It finally was taken over by Continental /Baking Co./, I think. But we had Toastmaster. We had Miller-Parrott Baking Company, who made crackers. And they made the butternut bread which was one of the best loaves of bread made around Terre Haute. It was a solid loaf called Butternut. And there was another bread company. The name escapes me.

In the summertime you could walk through the bakery as newsboys and they'd give you a hot roll, hot buns. And we used to get some butter and put on those things and ooooh, that hot bread!

BB: (quietly) Nothing better.

MALOOLEY: And Fitzgerald, Jerry Fitzgerald was good to all the newsboys. And, of course, the Terre Haute . . . the Boys' Club used to be here across from the courthouse on 3rd Street upstairs. They finally moved down on North 3rd where they are now when they located. We all went there on Saturday to play in the gym. And before you did that, you had to haul the ashes out of the basement furnace. (laughs) Everybody had to haul ashes out of the furnace; then you could go play. Each guy had a job down there to help keep the place going. It goes pretty good now, parts of the Boys' Club. Different service organizations around Christmas time would take newsboys or the Boys' Club boys, take them out and have a nice dinner at the Deming or some other place for Christmas and give them little candies and things. And they used to decorate . . . when I was a kid at . . . where the parking lot is across from Hulman & Company, that big square lot, they used to put up a great, huge Christmas tree and decorate it. And the day before Christmas . . . I think it was the Salvation Army that gave out little candy, stockings, you know,



MALOOLEY: and toys to everybody that came around. They all just used to flock around there and gave stuff away to all the kids. And that was every year . . . oh, I'd say five years. Of course, actually I don't know if they did it. You just stopped going; you grow up.

BB: Yeah. Too bad.

MALOOLEY: But as kids, man, that was it. It was a huge tree. It must have been (laughing) 15 feet tall. Where they got it from, I don't know. It was right on a stand, built up on a stand /and was/ well decorated. And I'm sure it was the Salvation Army that done it.

Now, these thoughts come to me as I recollect. You know, go back and think and there was a lot of things that did go on that probably are not coming out now. It's a shame. I should have written them down in the past as I thought of them. If I'd known that you were going to be here and recorded them, that way I could have given them to you a lot simpler and more in rotation right or categorically . . .

BB: We're talking about a lot of things tonight that we didn't talk about the last time.

MALOOLEY: Yeah, there was a few things that came out.

BB: Things that are coming out. That's O.K. That's the way it happens. That's why we talk to a lot of different people, to get a lot of different memories and views.

MALOOLEY: Yeah. I don't know. I hope I . . .

BB: You're not solely responsible for remembering everything (laughing) about Terre Haute.

MALOOLEY: Oh, I know that and I appreciate you even considering what I have to say and know and remember . . .

BB: I think if we gave you a pen and pencil or paper, you could probably name every store that was ever on Wabash Avenue in any given year.

MALOOLEY: Yeah. You know we were talking . . . you heard of me catching the bank robber? 7-16-81

BB: Yeah. Um hm.

MALOOLEY: Yeah. That came about because I happened to walk in the bank and Ish Gurman was coming out, and I said, "I've got a question on Schultz and Smith." I said, "They started on this side of the street or that side?" That's what we were talking about because the chief of police at the dinner they gave for us -- you know, they gave us the plaques -- told the story. He says, "When the cameras clicked on, who was the center of attraction, is Abe and Ish Gurman. And we know they're talking because he was using his hands saying, this, that," he said. "At the same time he was still using his hands when he turned and saw the bank fellow. Then when Jim hollered and the guy started running, he was . . . he started . . .

BB: (laughs heartily)

MALOOLEY: . . . running, too!"

It was funny. And we were talking about Schultz and Smith. And that's how we come to be standing there. I don't know what would have happened. We may not have been there or I'd have been back in the back somewhere.

BB: You maybe would have passed by and said "hello" and gone on.

MALOOLEY: Yeah. But a lot of these fellows do sit around here now, and I ought to start writing down . . . they start talking about old times and old things that they remember well. I could go back to almost 5 years of age on certain incidents that took place. Like me falling in the horse trough at the side of the store. You know, there was a spout that came out and the trough was filled with spring water. And everybody that was thirsty would cup their hand and drink cool water and keep walking. And, of course, I always wanted to do that. So, I had to get back to the wall and run and jump and grab and try to climb up there and get it and finally fell in.

BB: (laughs)

MALOOLEY: Well, of course, everybody's heard about the red light district. It was big. I sold papers around there and I can remember . . . and I knew some of the names -- like /Nell Bandy/. I knew Madam Brown's place. I sold papers to her. I knew Kate Adair. Another one, the name escapes me. She was one of the last ones. But it was . . . on Saturday evenings, I think, everybody walked there. I mean young people would walk up and down just to have fun, just walking. I mean it was like . . . if you didn't have enough money to go to a show, then you walked up and down -- the young men did. It was quite an attraction for Terre Haute, because they say they came from St. Louis, Chicago. This was "Little Chicago" at one time. All the gangsters hung out here 'cause Blackie Traum had a bookie joint out on East Wabash. How I know about Blackie Traum, his brother, Joe Traum, had the National Hotel on 4th Street when I had the pool room. And he used to come over there and tell us stories about the old rum running days. Of course, a lot of the madams from the red light district would come over to the National Hotel where he had a lunch counter and floor show at night. Then, that hotel

MALOOLEY: was one of the famous hotels, but it disappeared  
. . . it's where the parking lot at Schultz is now.

And I think I told you about the flying Reo.  
The first time . . .

BB: Is that the car that went . . .

MALOOLEY: Yeah. It was Jimmie DeTraney. I remember  
the name. And Ralph Calabrese was another Italian  
that had a produce delivery, and I worked for him.  
But Jimmie DeTraney came out of that National  
Hotel and this beautiful white convertible, Flying  
Reo, . . . "Hey, Jimmie, how fast can that car  
go?" He says, "Hundred miles an hour. Get in!"  
He took me to North Terre Haute and back.

I don't know. They liked newsboys. Newsboys  
were everywhere. You know. You hollered, you know.  
"Get your paper today." All about something news  
on there -- "Read about this," "read about that."  
You walked up and down the street, shouting and  
holding the paper up like you see in the movies  
today of old times. It was done that way. It was  
really done that way.

And you fought over corners. "This is my  
corner; you go down to the next corner."

BB: Um hm. What was the best corner in downtown?

MALOOLEY: Seventh and Wabash.

BB: Seventh and Wabash.

MALOOLEY: Seventh and Wabash was the busiest corner.  
And whoever had that had it made. But they used  
to sell papers everywhere; and if they saw a cus-  
tomer across the street, man, they'd dash, every-  
body'd run. (laughs) "Buy one from me!"

And, of course, Gillis Drugstore had . . . up

MALOOLEY: near 7th and Nabash. A certain fellow in there always gave me a nickel for a paper. It was only 3 cents, 2 cents and then 3 cents. Give me a nickel for it. Boy, that's, you know, that's big.

BB: It's a good customer.

MALOOLEY: Yeah. And you had certain places. Barber-shops. They'd take the paper from you. There were a lot of barbershops. And like I said, I remember the 25-cent haircuts.

BB: There were a lot of small shops.

MALOOLEY: Ooooh, that's what it was. It was all small shops, owner-operated or family-operated. The stores were all mom-and-pop stores. The bakery shops were all small bakeries. Every block. You know I was in Germany in '76 and it's that way in Germany; and I just had . . . I couldn't pass up a bakery, that big, nice bread. I went in there and got a loaf of it. (laughs)

BB: (laughs)

MALOOLEY: But Germany reminded me of this country prior to World War II. They carried baskets to the grocery store. They didn't buy like today. You know, big supermarkets, these carts. Everybody . . . they didn't have sacks. You carried your little basket or little bag to the store, bought what you need. Went to the bakery. Went to the vegetables . . . little grocery store and home. Every block. And some of them rode their bicycles. You know, if they were going someplace else to shop, you'd see 'em with their baskets. And I enjoyed Germany because they remind me of this country prior to World War II.

And it's too bad that those small shops are gone because I know the big stores have taken over.

MALOOLEY: The TV and the news media and the advertising have gone so fast and so far that they guide you by the nose to what they want you to buy. But it's probably good, too.

But the small stores did help during the Depression by giving credit; and many a people, many a people lived off of credit like they do today. But it was groceries then.

BB: Then it was . . .

MALOOLEY: And drugstores.

BB: . . . necessity.

MALOOLEY: Doctors. Each drugstore had . . .

What else?

BB: What about your family's first car?

MALOOLEY: Oh, yeah! In those days when you bought a car, they instructed you how to drive. And my father bought a Studebaker -- it must have been 1924-25 -- and the man was teaching him how to drive. And I got in the back seat; and we were going down North 3rd Street coming to the railroad tracks and, of course, he says, "Now, you step on the brake when you get to the railroad track." And my father blew the horn and he says, "No. That's the . . . you don't blow the horn for a train; you step on the brake down here!"

(both laugh)

MALOOLEY: But they taught you how to drive a car.

BB: Um hm.

MALOOLEY: Instructions went with the car.

They had those seats. They had the back seat

MALOOLEY: . . . the front seat, and they had the two extra seats that folded up. They were folded out to get more people in the car. You could get eight people in the car. And in the summer around the Fourth of July when you'd go like to Turkey Run or Robinson Park, you'd pile everybody in it that wanted to go. You'd get two or three cars and you'd take a whole gang /and/ go up to Turkey Run, for the day you know. That was a big thing. And go to Twin Lakes over in Illinois. That was a big thing, too.

That's about it. Other than that, just nothing clicks yet.

BB: What about your own first vehicle?

MALOOLEY: My what?

BB: Your first vehicle.

MALOOLEY: Mine? (laughs) I had a . . . no, prior to that, I had one you had to crank. I had a Model-T, my brother and I. And you had to crank it and set the spark and jump in there and get it and start it going, you know. After you'd give it a couple of good cranks, she'd chug along. And they were top heavy, tall. And if you didn't watch how you turned a corner, you could turn them over.

Then, I finally got a '30 panel Chevrolet that we hauled our musical instruments in. Then, after that, I didn't have any more cars.

BB: For a while.

MALOOLEY: Yeah.

But I remember the Packard was a beautiful limousine and on 4th Street there one shop sold Packards; and they were limousines, beautiful, big black shiny cars.

MALOOLEY: And they had electric cars, too. I used to see electric cars. Some of the rich women would drive an electric car with a stick like this. It wasn't straight . . . well, it was a stick.

BB: Yeah, a stick.

MALOOLEY: And they would travel up on Wabash Avenue in their little, quiet electric car. Even when everybody had gasoline combustion-type engines cars, they stayed with them. And I remember one was . . . seeing one almost 1940.

But cars got plentiful. You didn't need . . . we didn't need one. Like I said, I didn't have a car for a long time after that. I'd say since 1936 'til I went into service, I didn't have a car. Didn't get a car until '48, after service. [T] rode the buses.

BB: Well, with streetcars and buses and your own two feet, you could get around a lot in those days.

MALOOLEY: A lot of people lived in our house that came to this town. Like I said, we had a big house, two-story. And you know the Kassises . . . you know Mose Kassiss?

BB: Um hm.

MALOOLEY: His mother and father, when they got married, lived in our upstairs for a year. In fact, his brother Charlie was born in our upstairs.

And the Georges and Coreys and a lot of them. See, we being one of the first and my dad being a merchant, a businessman, they came to him. And we put 'em up sometimes as much as a year, 'til they got going. Then they'd go out and get a place of their own. That we were . . . just became the cross section. Even as I grew up, all the fellows came to the house, waited on me. They was going to



MALOOLEY: go out somewhere. The house was always full of fellows or girls. My two sisters had their girl friends. But they all came there and whenever I got home, you know, from work, /they said, / "Hurry up, we're going to go out." There might be six guys waiting on the front porch.

BB: (laughs) Why do you think Terre Haute had such a rich ethnic mixture in those days?

MALOOLEY: Well, I think mainly because of the coal mines. The Hungarians, the Romanians, Lithuanians were all coal-mining people. And I think they needed people . . . wherever there's people and work, there was always something to sell. The needs were there. The needs were there. Grocery stores or dry goods stores, that's . . . Terre Haute grew because of coal-mining. It was a very strong coal-mining area, and all these people came here because they were coal miners. And worked.

Of course, you had the tie plants and railroads had a lot of people working. They came here because there was work, and it wasn't a big city where you had to fight your way against too many other groups. Some of your big cities were pretty well strongly set and you couldn't just move in. Terre Haute was pretty open to 'em. And they were well received. This was a German town for a while, too, you know. That's what . . . St. Benedict's and St. Joseph's were German. In the early years when they were built - St. Joseph's will be 100 years old this year, I think, 1881. I think I saw it on the cornerstone the other day. Of course, they even talked German in those days. As the thing became more English -- American -- they switched. Even when we started our church, it was in Arabic. And, of course, we said, we don't know it. We don't understand it. You've got to go English, and they did. It's all English all over the country now.

MALOOLEY: The ethnic people, I think, were well received. And the work was here. You had . . . the river had boats. They even had the old Reliable which was a dance boat. The music you could . . . it was rented one time. I went to a dance on it as a young man. Went up the river, up and down, you know, the whole night, dancing on the boat.

And the river had a lot of traffic.

The railroads were everywhere in this town. You can see the tracks still. There were a lot of tracks and they were all busy. And you had the big roundhouse. There was small shops, too, you know. They were needed with all this other stuff. As the needs grew, the shops opened. And I think that's why they came to Terre Haute. There was work. And being well received. Oh, yes, as a kid they'd call you Hunky or something like that which . . . this is all you know with kids. And the main . . . the most of them were, I would say, /living in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th /street area -- the/ north end. The south end wasn't as much coal mining as the north end. Most of your coal miners lived all the way up to Locust and further and over to 1st Street. South end homes were more influential people that had been here longer and they . . . . We always said the south end was the rich end of town, as kids, you know. And on . . . when I said we shoveled snow, the place you headed for was the rich area which is South Center.

BB: Oh, yes, yes, all the big homes.

MALOOLEY: Yeah. And they wanted somebody to shovel snow. And on Christmas morning -- we were about 12 years old -- they had a newspaper that was a special edition. Me and this fellow decided that he'd take one side of the street and I'd take the other. We'd knock on the door, "Merry Christmas. Christmas edition." And I'm going to tell you, they gave you

MALOOLEY: apples, oranges, 50 cents or a quarter. Before we got through by noon, we had five or six dollars in our pocket. We'd split it, you know. And we always had a bunch of apples and oranges to take with you. You know they'd always give you something on Christmas day. And we did that for a couple of years.

BB: That was a pretty good racket. (laughs)

MALOOLEY: Yeah, it got to be a nice racket.

BB: So, what do you think the future of downtown Terre Haute is?

MALOOLEY: I think it's good. I think that there's a great future. There will not be . . . I don't look for any big department stores, but I look for offices. I look for many professional people to be downtown, even government. And all these empty lots, there'll be buildings go up regardless. You can only stay that way so long and there's a need. When the need arises, it will be there. And you cannot -- I do not believe -- you cannot hurt a main area of any town. It may slip. It may go down. But they're not out.

The shopping centers have done great and it is fine. But they're still not going to kill downtown. Like I said before, there are enough cars parked in every area in downtown that, if put together, would make Honey Creek look sick. And there's got to be people driving those cars and they've got to be somewhere. And at noon today as you walk around . . . if you walk around town, it's busy. People are out. Whether they're going to lunch, going to work, going to whatever. It dies at night, yes. After 5 o'clock now I'm speaking, it does quiet down. And they say, "Well, they roll the sidewalks up downtown." But it's not the old days of window shopping and all these things

MALOOLEY: have gone. It's a new era. And I don't see downtown going downhill except uphill. And I feel dedicated to it and I worked for it and I would stay with it. And like I said, I preserved this building. And I've had many people come in and congratulate me, says, "Thank God, somebody is keeping something old." And I believe in downtown. It will come back. I mean, I don't know how long -- 3 years, 5 years, 10 years -- but it'll be there.

END OF TAPE

INDEX

- Antone, John, 15
- Automobiles, 42, 44-46
- Baking companies, 37-38
- Ball park, 22
- Bank robbery, 40
- Barbershops, 21, 43
- Bauermeister's, 9
- Bell Telephone, 22-23
- Biel's Cigar Store, 8-9
- Boxing gym, 13
- Boys' Club, 38
- Caravan Band, 14-15
- Childhood jobs, 4-5, 7-9, 12-13, 42-43, 48-49
- Circus, 24-25
- Coal miners, 5-6, 21, 47-48
- Coal mining, 47
- Collett Park, 22
- Dance halls, 13-14
- Debs, Eugene V., 1, 19
- Deming Park, 11
- Depression, 5, 44
- Downtown, 4, 20-21, 25-46, 49-50
- Ethnic groups
  - Germans, 47
  - Hungarians, 2, 47
  - Lithuanians, 2, 47
  - Romanians, 2, 47
  - Syrians, 3, 5-7, 46-47
- Family background, 3, 12
- Fitzgerald, Jerry, 38
- Fitzgerald Baking Company, 37-38
- Gambling, 41
- Gangsters, 41
- Gompers, Samuel, 19
- Goodie Shop, 31
- Grand Theater, 26, 30
- Grocery stores, 1-3, 5-6, 15, 23-24
- Herz department store, 21
- Honey Creek Square, 20
- Housing, 11
- Hulman, Tony, 32-36
- Hulman and Company, 18, 32-33, 36-37
- Ice wagons, 10
- Indiana State University, 1, 29
- Indiana theater, 26, 29
- Jackson's, Guy, Meat Market, 9
- Jewish community, 2
- Kables Restaurant, 18
- McKeen National Bank, 12
- Maloola, Syria, 3
- Malooley, Joe, 17
- Market, farmers', 27-28
- Marlatt's dancing school, 13
- Martin, George, 31
- Matchmaker, 11-12
- Meis department store, 21
- Merchants Distillery, 37
- Mewhinneys candy company, 37
- Miller-Parrott Baking Company, 38
- Nasser, N. George, 17
- National Hotel, 41-42
- Neighborhoods, 48
- Newspaper boys, 4-5, 8, 12, 38, 42-43
- Paul Cox Airport, 24
- Pentecost and Craft, 18, 34
- Phoenician Club, 17
- Policemen, 2, 29
- Pool room, 16
- Prostitution, 41
- Railroads, 48
- Rainbow Gardens, 13
- Recreation, 9-11, 13-14, 45, 48
- Red light district, 41
- Reliable, 48
- Restaurants, 16-20, 31-35
- Rickleman, Henry, 29
- Root's department store, 21
- St. Anthony Hospital, 36
- St. Benedict's Church, 12, 36, 47
- St. George Orthodox Church, 3-4, 7, 47
- St. Joseph's Church, 3, 47

## INDEX (continued)

- Salavation Army, 28-29,  
38-39  
Saratoga, 16-20, 31-35  
Schultz and Smith department  
store, 21  
Schultz department store, 21  
Social customs, 2, 13, 23-24  
Stark's School for Dancing, 13  
Sterchi's music store, 14  
Streetcars, 22  
Syrian community, 3, 5-7,  
46-47  
Taylor, Bud, 13  
Taylor, Homer, 33  
Terre Haute House, 29  
Terre Haute National Bank,  
17, 33  
Terre Haute Post, 4  
Terre Haute Pure Milk, 8, 37  
Theaters, 26-27, 29-30  
Transportation, 4, 10-11, 15,  
22, 24, 44-46, 48  
Traum, Blackie, 41  
Traum, Joe, 41  
Traveling salesmen, 5  
Trianon, 13-14  
Unions, 19  
Vaudeville, 26, 29-30  
Voorhees School, 3-4, 6  
Wabash River, 10, 48